(c) whether the ULFA militants had given any prior undertaking;

(d) what was the basis for according general amnesty to ULFA militants;

(e) whether ULFA still demand independent Assam; and

(f) whether they continue to refuse to recognise the sovereignty of India over Assam ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. According to the State Government immediately after the receipt of information about adbuction of Mr. G. Sergei, Soviet Mining Engineer of Tipong Colliery, police rushed out in search of his whereabouts. All Police Stations and Para-military Forces were alerted, road blocks were set up to search the passing vehicles. Search operations inprobable places were also conducted by Police and para-military forces.

(b) to (d) Accordng to the inforimation provided by the State Government, the Chief Minister has not declared any general amnesty. He has made an appeal to ULFA militants to give up their arms and come to the negotiating table and has offered to consider a general amnesty for them if they respond to his appeal. ULFA informed through a press release that Shri B. N. Jaiswal, Chief Geophysicist of ONGC and Shri G. Sergei would be released by them in exchange for release of six ULFA undertrial prisoners, whose names were given.

(e) and (f) There is no information that ULFA has given up its secessionist demand.

Phasing out of vehicle to check pollution

*149. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to phase out old private, public as well as Government vehicles to check pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this also includes DTC buses and buses under its operation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d) No decision has been taken to phase out old vehicles as a measure to check pollution. All vehicles allowed to ply on the road are required to have a certificate of fitness and also to conform to the regulations regarding pollution notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. This applies to DTC buses and buses under its operation also.

देश में इलैक्ट्रानिक एक्सचेंज

*150. डा० अबरार अहमद : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे, कि :

(क) गत वर्ष देश में कहां-कहां नये इलैक्ट्रानिक एक्सचेंज खोले गये थे तथा राजस्थान सहित राज्य-वार प्रत्येक एक्सचेंज की क्षमता क्या है ;

(ख) निकट भविष्य में कहां-कहां नय इलैक्ट्रानिक एक्सचेंज खोले जाने की योजना बनायी जा रही है तथा प्रत्यक की क्षमता क्या होगी ; और

(ग) क्या राजस्थान में किसी स्थान पर डायनमिक एस०डी०टी०डी० सुविधा उपलब्ध है, यदि नहीं, तो उसे कब तक उपलब्ध करा दिये जाने की संभावना है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Names of large (MAX-I) Electronic Exchanges opened in the country, State-wise during 1990-91 are given in Annexure-I along with their capacity.

(*See* appendix 159, Annexure No. 18)

Besides 2903 Nos. of small and medium size Electronic Exchanges were also opened in the country during 1990-91. 149